

REMARKS

This RCE is intended as a full and complete response to the Final Office Action dated January 31, 2007, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on April 30, 2007. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-6, 8, 10, 13-35, 38-43, 55-58, 61, 67, 70-72, 81-85, 87, 99, 100, 102-108, 112-117, and 119-149 remain pending in the application after entry of this response. Claims 122, 141, and 147 have been amended and new claim 149 has been added. No new matter has been added by either the amendments or new claims.

Claims 122-137 and 141-148 are rejected, and claims 1-6, 8, 10, 13-35, 38-43, 55-58, 61, 67, 70-72, 81-85, 87, 99, 100, 102-108, 112-117, 119-121, and 138-140 are indicated to be allowable by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 112

Claims 122-137 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 122 has been amended to clarify that the male end and female end are not the same end of the tubular. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 122-137 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Adequate support for male/female corrugated end portions is provided in the specification as follows:

[0030] The presence of corrugations may also be utilised for coupling adjacent corrugated or part-corrugated tubular sections. By providing corresponding helical corrugations it is possible to thread adjacent tubular sections together by relative rotation, or it may simply be enough to push the sections together, or to corrugate an inner tubular in a corresponding manner to a surrounding outer tubular. The thread provided by the corrugations may be parallel or tapered, and in other embodiments the corrugations may be circumferential. To facilitate provision of a seal at such a coupling, deformable material may be provided on one or both of the tubular sections. This aspect of the invention may be utilised in a wide

variety of applications, but is particularly useful in achieving a coupling at a lateral junction, where difficulties are often experienced when using conventional coupling-forming methods. For use in coupling sections of casing and liner, this feature obviates the need to provide separate connectors, and thus also avoids the upsets that are created by such connectors. The couplings formed will also be better able to withstand torques applied to the tubulars.

[0031] If desired, only a portion of a tubular may be corrugated. The corrugated portion may be provided, as mentioned above, to facilitate coupling...

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

Claims 141-146 and 148 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Quigley* (U.S. 6,148,866). *Quigley* does not teach, suggest, or disclose a corrugated tubular having a uniform wall thickness as recited in amended claim 141. Applicants believe the Examiner recognizes this distinction in the Examiner's rejection of claim 141 ("Even though the troughs are cut into the tubular...") and the rebuttal of arguments presented in the last response regarding claim 141 ("Even though material is removed from the wall to form the corrugations"). Therefore, claim 141 and its dependents are patentable over *Quigley*.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §103

Claim 147 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Quigley*. New claim 149 is claim 147 (before current amendment to claim 141) redrafted in independent form. As the rejection may now apply to claim 149, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. The Examiner recognizes that *Quigley* does not disclose internal troughs and states that it would be an obvious design choice to place the troughs on the internal wall. However, *Quigley* provides no such suggestion. Further, *Quigley* discloses that the purpose of the grooves 15 is to increase the bonding strength between liner 12 and the composite layer 14 as follows:

The liner 12, illustrated in FIG. 1, can also include grooves 15 or channels on the exterior surface of the liner. The grooves increase the bonding strength between the liner 12 and the composite layer 14 by supplying a

roughened surface for the fibers in the composite layer 14 to latch onto. The grooves can further increase the bonding strength between the liner 12 and the composite layer 14 if the grooves are filled with a matrix. The matrix acts as a glue, causing the composite layer to be securely adhered to the underlying liner 12. Preferably, the grooves are helically oriented on the liner relative to the longitudinal axis 17.

(Col. 10, lines 14-24; see also col. 4, lines 58-64.) Modifying *Quigley* to have the grooves 15 on the interior surface of the liner 12 would contravene *Quigley's* purpose for providing the grooves 15 as they would no longer affect the bond between the liner 12 and the composite layer 14. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement (SIDS)

The SIDS being submitted with this response includes a re-submission of references submitted in the IDS mailed October 27, 2003. Applicants could find no indication of consideration of these references by the Examiner in the file history. The SIDS also includes two new references: U.S. 2,999,552 and U.S. 3,194,331.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the Final Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



William B. Patterson
Registration No. 34,102
PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.
3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500
Houston, TX 77056
Telephone: (713) 623-4844
Facsimile: (713) 623-4846
Attorney for Applicant(s)